

% Kipp Dawson  
316 East 11th St., Apt. 4A  
New York, New York 10003  
May 26, 1968

Dear Friend,

The New York Working Committee of the Student Mobilization Committee met again on May 23 and carried its bureaucratic and exclusionary policies one step further. At this meeting the same people who voted for the exclusionary motions which we described to you in our May 17 letter voted against carrying out the mandate of the last national conference which called for holding a full national conference of SMC every six months.

Because the actions which have been taken by the Working Committee during the last three weeks are ~~attacks~~ on some of the basic principles on which SMC has been built, we feel that it is absolutely necessary that a full national conference be held as soon as possible to review these actions and to take the necessary steps to set SMC back on the right track. We introduced a motion at the May 23 meeting that the Working Committee carry out the mandate of the last conference and call a full national conference for June 29-30 in the midwest. Although nearly everyone at the meeting admitted that the conference would be the most democratic body of SMC, the motion was defeated, with almost all of those who had supported the exclusionary motions voting against it.

It is in this light that we have drawn up the enclosed petition, and are urging that it be circulated as widely as possible on a national level. The initial response to our May 17 letter has been extremely encouraging, as it indicates that builders of the SMC around the country are dismayed and infuriated with the actions taken by the Working Committee and are going to work to reverse these actions. We think that this petition campaign can be an effective tool in allowing antiwar activists to express their feelings on the question of exclusion, and to demand a say in the crucial questions facing SMC through the convening of a conference.

Please feel free to duplicate these petitions, and to publish them and make them available by whatever means you can. Please make sure that we get a copy of each petition you return to the SMC office, or a list of names and addresses of all signers.

One last thing. Please feel free to direct to us any questions you might have as to the so-called "Corrections" to our May 17 letter issued by some of the MC coordinators. It is important that the central issues not be obscured by a picayune discussion of the kind which this "reply" attempts to begin. Discussion and action must focus now on the key issues before us: the introduction of exclusion and bureaucratic practices into SMC, and the fight to reverse these acts and to restore democracy to the organization. Therefore we are not concentrating on a correction of the numerous factual errors and misstatements contained in the "Corrections." If you have specific questions about anything raised either in the "Corrections" or by us we would be happy to answer them.

Sincerely,  
Kipp Dawson

Syd Stapleton  
former editor, Student  
Mobilizer